

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. 

TOPIC Information on the Torgelow AT Battalion of KVP Division Prenzlau

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EVALUATION	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	PLACE OBTAINED	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>
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DATE OBTAINED	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	DATE PREPARED	5 March 1954
REFERENCES	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 300px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 300px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>		

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1. The AT battalion of KVP Division Prenzlau, also referred to as S-4 Battalion, was stationed at a newly constructed installation near Torgelow on the road from Torgelow to Eggesin.

2. In December, the battalion had the following strength:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	12		
Headquarters Platoon	1	8	15
Supply Section	3	3	10
1st through 3d Cos, each	4	8	34

These figures were said to represent the authorized strength.

3. Officers assigned to the unit included:  
 Captain Lichtwald (fmu), commanding officer;  
 Senior Lieutenant Wirkus (fmu), deputy CO;  
 Lieutenant Girsleit (fmu), chief of staff;  
 Senior Lieutenant Brabant (fmu), deputy CO and officer in charge of political training;

Lieutenant Schulze (fmu), CO, 1st Co;  
 Lieutenant Wendland (fmu), CO, 2d Co;  
 Junior Lieutenant Mittelstaedt (fmu), CO, 3d Co.

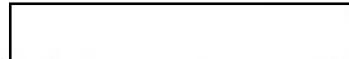
4. Weapons and motor vehicles available to the unit included 12 Soviet 76-mm AT guns and 6 model M 1928 light machine guns; 3 model H 3 A trucks, 1 model EMW F-1 command car and 15 model Phaenomen Granit-27 light prime movers. All vehicles were in serviceable condition. New vehicles were furnished by the division in Prenzlau. Repair work was also performed in Prenzlau.

5. About 10 percent of the personnel of the AT Battalion belonged to the 1936 class, 30 percent to the 1935 class, 25 percent to the 1934 class, 20 percent to the 1933 class, while the remainder belonged to older year classes. About 95 percent of the personnel had served up to 3 years, 5 percent from 3 to 5 years. A total of 20 percent of the personnel came from Saxony-Anhalt, 30 percent from Saxony, 15 percent each from Thuringia and Brandenburg, and 10 percent each from Mecklenburg and Berlin. About 35 percent of the personnel followed the SED line, 55 percent were indifferent, while 10 percent were secret opponents of the regime. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor. They objected to excessive duty hours, poor food and inadequate housing.

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No Soviet advisors were attached to the AT Battalion.

6. The new training year runs from 1 December 1953 to 31 October 1954. After 1 December, stress was laid on basic infantry training, close order drill and field training up to platoon level. A short time before Christmas, an exercise was held at company level. The company practiced an attack in three waves; the attack sector was about 50 meters wide. Service of the piece drill, the construction of artillery emplacements and the protection of these emplacements through camouflage were also practiced. In December, 2 practice alerts were held at night. The unit fell in about 40 minutes after the alert was sounded.

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[Redacted] Comment. The report agrees with previous information on the organization and weapons equipment of the AT Battalion in Torgelow. As compared with AT battalions of a Soviet infantry division, the Torgelow AT Battalion had 80 percent of full strength. The basic training observed in December 1953 followed the pattern of other KVP units.

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